



Good Poems for Hard Times

From Keillor, Garrison (EDT)

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Chosen by Garison Keillor for his readings on public radio's *The Writer's Almanac*, the 185 poems in this follow-up to his acclaimed anthology *Good Poems* are perfect for our troubled times.

Here, readers will find solace in works that are bracing and courageous, organized into such resonant headings as "Such As It Is More or Less" and "Let It Spill." From William Shakespeare and Walt Whitman to R. S. Gwynn and Jennifer Michael Hecht, the voices gathered in this collection will be more than welcome to those who've been struck by bad news, who are burdened by stress, or who simply appreciate the power of good poetry.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Having revived the radio variety program with *A Prairie Home Companion* Garrison Keillor turned to broadcasting poetry in the daily short feature *The Writer's Almanac*. In any given week, probably more people hear him read poems than attend poetry readings and slams. That's good because his taste is excellent. But then, his criteria are golden. For him, a poem is good if it's memorable, recitable, and accessible. The almost-unheard-of-for-poetry sales of *Good Poems* (2002) suggest that many endorse his taste and criteria, and the sequel to that success gives them no reason to change their minds. As before, the range of poets represented is broad contemporarily (the majority are alive or very recently deceased) and historically (sixteenth to twenty-first century), though not internationally, for, with one exception (Psalm 51), English is these poems' language of origin. As before, too, these are predominantly poems of domesticity and ordinary things, and when a poem touches the genuinely extraordinary, it is related to everyday life; for instance, Stephen Dobyns' "Thelonious Monk" relates a particular instance of a kind of experience virtually everyone has--the discovery of greatness. Even those tired of Lake Wobegon, or who think Keillor's a bigoted Democrat (especially after *Homemade Democrat*, 2004), should grant that he knows good poetry. *Ray Olson*
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Review

Praise for *Good Poems for Hard Times*

"If I could choose only one book to give every inhabitant of post-Katrina New Orleans, it would be Garrison Keillor's remarkable and wide-ranging collection of *Good Poems for Hard Times*. What a lovely, consoling book, perfect reading for these days when everyone is struggling with something . . . the 185 poems in this collection do help."

—*The Times-Picayune* (New Orleans)

"Irresistible."

—*The Arizona Republic*

"[Keillor's] taste is excellent. . . . [H]e knows good poetry."

—*Booklist*

"Those ready to whet their appetites would do well to start with *Good Poems for Hard Times*."

—*The Cleveland Plain Dealer*

About the Author

Garrison Keillor, author of nearly a dozen books, is founder and host of the acclaimed radio show **A Prairie Home Companion** and the daily program **The Writer's Almanac**. He is also a regular contributor to **Time** magazine.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Matthew Siller:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or maybe goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They may be reading whatever they have because their hobby is reading a book. Consider the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you should have this Good Poems for Hard Times.

Robert Glass:

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